

A  
R E V I E W

Of the Late

13

Engagement at S E A,

BEING

A Collection of Private Letters, never  
before printed, (one of them from  
*Sir Cloudesly Shovell.*)

CONTAINING,

The Truest and most Authentick Accounts :  
With some Remarks on the Conduct of  
our Admirals, particularly Sir G. R.

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L O N D O N :

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T H E

# P R E F A C E.

**I** Cannot but take notice a little of the French Account, that came out lately from Edward Jones in the Savoy, to see how they have patch'd a Story together; and from which, indeed, any indifferent Person may find they were soundly Beaten; by their evading Matters; where 'tis remarkable they say, That upon the whole, 'twas we desir'd to give over, and kept our Wind as much as possible: But had it been so, I am sure the French would have said we had run away; but they have Modesty enough not to add, that they endeavour'd to Chase us. But our Honest Brave English Tars speak Confidently and Positively, say, the French Fleet run away, and that we Chas'd them afterwards for two Days together; and undoubtedly, they would have said as much by us, had they had as good Authority, which is plain by their own Account they had not; for they own, they still held on their course toward the Coast of Spain, while we kept them Company, by which we may see, they never

## The PREFACE.

made the least stop to let us come up with them ; but at Midnight they durst venture to tack, and stand for the Coast of Barbary, to meet their disabled Ships, which could not keep up with them. Now a Victor has no occasion to run so fast, as to leave his disabled Ships behind him, because he is Maris Arbitrator, and none dare come near him ; and it had been rather the part of a Judicious Admiral, not to have left any Ships behind him that were in Danger : For if they could not Sail as fast as he, he ought to have Sail'd as slow as them, and doubtless Count Tholouse would have done so, had not danger push'd him forward ; and, indeed, nothing plainer gives us the Victory, than their own Relation of it. Where they have just Modesty enough not to assume it to themselves, and too much Ambition to allow it us : But the following Accounts are an undeniable Instance whose the Victory was.

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A  
R E V I E W

Of the Late

Engagement at S E A,

Between the

*Confederate and French Fleets*

In the STREIGHTS.

*Sir Cloudesly Shovell's Letter, dated from on Board the  
Barfleur, near the Cape, August 28. 1704.*

**T**HIS brings the News of my Health, and that we are on our way Homeward: That which sends us home so soon is, a very sharp Engagement we have had with the *French*; our Number of Ships that Fought in the Line of Battle were pretty equal, I think they were 49, and ours 53, but Sir *George Rooke* reserv'd 2 or 3 of the 50 Gun-ships, to observe if they attempted a-  
B ny

ny thing with their Gallies, of which they had 24. Their Ships did far exceed in bigness, I judge they had 17 Three Deck Ships, and we had but 7. The Battle began on *Sunday* the 13th. Instant, soon after 10 in the Morning, and in the Center and Rear of the Fleet it continued till Night parted ; but in the Van of the Fleet, where I Commanded, and Lead by Sir *John Leake*, we having the Weather-Gage, gave me an opportunity of coming as near as I pleas'd, which was within Pistol-shot, before I fir'd a Gun, thro' which means, and God's assistance, the Enemy declin'd us, and were upon the Run in less than 4 hours, by which time we had but little Wind, and their Gallies tow'd off their lame Ships, and others, as they pleas'd, for the Admiral of the White and Blue, with whom we fought, had 7 Gallies tended on him. As soon as the Enemy got out of reach of our Guns, and the Battle continuing pretty hot a-stern, and some of our Ships in the Admiral's Squadron towed out of the Line, which I understood afterwards was for want of Shot, I order'd all the Ships of my Division to slack all their Sails to close the Line in the Centre ; this Working had that good effect, that several of the Enemy's Ships a-stern which had kept their Line having their Top-sails and Fore-sails set, shot up abreast of us, as the Rear Admiral of the White and Blue, and some of his Division ; and the Vice Admiral of the White, and some of his Division ; but they were so warmly receiv'd before they got a Broad-side, that with their Boats a-head, and their Sprit-sails set, they Tow'd from us, without giving us the opportunity of firing at them.

The Ships that suffer'd most in my Division were, the *Lenox*, *Warspright*, *Tilbury*, and *Swiftsure*, the rest escap'd pretty well, and I the best of all, tho' I never took greater pains in all my Life to have been sound-

ly.



ly beaten; for I set all my Sails, and tow'd with 3 Boats a Head to get a Long side with the Admiral of the White and Blue; but he out-sailing me, shun'd Fighting, and lay a Long-side of the little Ships: Notwithstanding the Engagement was very sharp, and I think the like between two Fleets never has been in any time. There is hardly a Ship that must not Shift one Mast, and some must shift all, a great many have suffer'd much, but none more than Sir *George Rooke*, and Capt. *Jennings* in the *Monk*. God send us well Home, I believe we have not three spare Top-Masts, nor three Fishes in the Fleet, and I judge there is ten Jury Top-Masts now up. After the Fight we lay two days in sight of the Enemy, preparing for a second Engagement, but the Enemy declin'd and stood from us in the Night. I am of Opinion the Enemy wou'd have given way in the Center before Night, had not several of our Ships tow'd out of the Line of Battle for want of Shot, and the *Dutch* were in the Rear with little Ships (the Admiral carrying but 64 Guns) they fought very well, but had not weight enough to make the Enemy give way. We did not lose one Ship, nor can I say the Enemy lost any: Of our Captains Sir *Andrew Lake* and *Cow* were kill'd, and *Mings*, *Kirton*, *Jumper*, and *Baker* were wounded, but are like to do well: Of the Lieutenants, Capt. *Jennings's* Son, and *Lestock's* youngest Son, and some others, kill'd. Among the wounded are *Edisbury*, my 3d and 5th Lieutenants, but like to do well. Mr. *Cary* tells me there is about 3000 kill'd and wounded, 300 of which are *Dutch*. Two days after the Engagement, the *Dutch* Admiral's Ship, by an unknown Accident, blew up, only 9 Men sav'd. They lost none in the Fight. 'Tis Reported in *Spain*, that the Enemy had 4 Ships and Gallies sunk,

*Tours, &c.*

Gibraltar, *August the 22d.*

*Honest Ned,*

EVERY one here are endeavouring to send their Friends an Account of the late Fight we have had, in which I can pretend to give you nothing more Material than what you will receive by other Hands; only, if I am defective in Particulars (as 'tis possibly I may be) because, in the height of the Engagement, I had a Splinter struck in my Head, and was two hours before I could get the Chirurgeon to dress me) I shall make some amends by sending you a Novelty, that is, a piece of Sea-Poetry; I know you are a judge, but have too much modesty to find fault, especially with any thing that comes from me: I can only tell you, (and I fancy you will believe me too) that the Lines are none of my own, but generally said to be writ by a young Gentleman Voluntier, on Board the Flag. There are several Copies go about in the Fleet, and every one here is proud to commend 'em; and, perhaps, they extend to the ultimate Sense of the best *Wits* here; but how you, of the Town, will approve of 'em, I will not pretend to dispute; yet, I will so say, that we have some *English Wit* here, as well as *Courage*, we have satisfy'd the *French* of one, and I wou'd fain satisfy you of the other, if I cou'd, which your Approbation will sufficiently confirm. I will not wholly omit an Account of our Battle (because it may be more acceptable from me, than what is publickly related of it) which, without descending to Particulars, is thus:

Having Intelligence that the *French* Fleet were near us, and being confirm'd in that Opinion by the Chasing one of their Scouts a-shoar, which was burnt, (she appear'd to be a Ship of 60 Guns) it was resolv'd



solv'd to Fight them, notwithstanding the great Detachment that had been made from our Fleet just before ; and the terrible Account given us of the Enemy, by a *Spanish* Bark, who told us they were 70 Sail, besides 30 Gallies and Fire-ships: But these were Rogues who pretended they were coming to sell Provvisions to our Fleet, when the plain case was, they only mistook us for the *French*, and was come but as Spies ; however, the respect we are fain to shew the *Spaniards*, oblig'd us to take their words, much against my Inclination, who was on Board of her :

On the 12th Instant about Noon, we discover'd the *French* Fleet, when every thing was put in order to Engage them. 'Tis impossible to express the universal chearfulness our Men shew'd when they found they should Fight, and on Board our Ship they was as merry and chearful in the midst of the Engagement, as tho' they had been at one of their *Chatham* Landladies, joking with one another, and making remarks upon the *French* Ship we were Engag'd with, which we had maul'd cursedly, and, in my Opinion, Count *Thoulouse* never carried the Ship far ; I am sure, if they had got the advantage to have chas'd us, we shou'd have been forc'd to have sunk 4 or 5 of ours, that we could never have carried off ; therefore the Consequence makes it plain ( besides their being generally more damag'd than we ) that they lost several Ships during the Chase.

On the 13th we came up with the *French* in the Morning betimes, and about 10 were at it Pell-Mell, and I believe never any thing was so fierce and eager on both sides, as it was for three hours, at which time Sir *Cloudsley Shovel*, who had the Van, broke thro' the Van of the *French*, who bore away, and would never stand him afterwards. Count *Thoulouse* had got  
most

most of their best Ships in the Centre, where the dispute was sharpest; and He, and Sir *George Rook*, pass'd the usual Compliments upon one another all day long; and tho' he had two Hundred Gun Ships to his Seconds, had enough of the business, and made several Motions to be gone, in the end Sir *George* handled him so handsomly, that he was forc'd to be row'd off by two Gallies; Admiral *Dilks*, with his Squadron, bore out of the Line, which at first gave us some Umbrage of his being disordered (which hapned only by his wanting Shot to maintain the Fight any longer) but by this time the *Dutch* had broke the Rear of the *French*, which restor'd and clear'd all again. The *Dutch*, on their Parts, fought like *Devils*, and were continually pelting the *French*, they were, for the most part, less Ships than those they Engag'd; yet they gave the Enemy their Bellyful, and made them glad to Sheer away: I spoke with one of a *Dutch* Crew belonging to a Ship call'd, *The Princess Emibla*, and he said a *French* Gally sunk along their side, and that a *French* Ship sunk her self to hinder her being taken, when they had hemm'd her in among them. I don't know how you Christen this Battle at home, but we call it hear a Victory, in that we had the Honour to Chase them all the next day, and dare 'em to Engagement again, which we cou'd not, by any manner of Obligation, bring 'em to. Nay, they had the Weather-Gage and a fresh Gale to have poured down upon us; but no encouragement was sufficient to draw them to Fight us again; which must be an Argument, (considering the advantage they had of being both bigger Ships, and better Mann'd, clean Ships, and had Gallies to Tow them off and on) that they were sufficiently Bang'd the Day before, and durst not trust Fortune any more, for fear of being totally ruin'd; for if the *French* lost



no Ship in the Battle, and had the opportunity of being remann'd out of the Gallies, (as many of 'em were during the dispute) and the advantage of ours being weakly Mann'd, and inferiour in number to 'em. Count *Tholouse* may go Home and tell the *French* King, that he had an opportunity to have destroy'd the Confederate Fleet, if it had not been for fear of being beaten himself; as certainly if they had not been dismally handled the day before, or had believ'd they had got any advantage of us, they would have attempted, and in all likelihood might have perform'd it too; but the truth is, *Ned*, they were confoundedly brush'd, and durst as well be Hang'd as trust us any more. Two Ships there were certainly sunk of 'em, and 2 Gallies in the Fight; and others, I hear, wou'd hardly hang together, especially one Ship that we had Engag'd, which we could easily have carried off, had she not been Succour'd by two large Ships, that came pouring their Broad-sides upon us and oblig'd us to keep our Station. I believe, in the Van, Commanded by Sir *Cloudsley*, where we fought, it was, for three hours, the sharpest and Bloodiest Encounter that ever happen'd; we lost our Mizen-Mast and Fore-Yard, and had all our Rigging cut to pieces; but for the Ship that fought us first, she had nothing but the Splinter of a Mast standing, and had hardly a whole stick in her side; but she that undertook us next was one of the Biggest in the *French* Line of Battle, who paid us off, tho' I think she got little by us. I told you I had a Splinter in my Head, at which shot there was two or three wounded besides my self; it was something troublesome till I had been drest, and then I came upon Deck again. 'Twas a Devilish Fatigueing day, and when we had done, I slept like a Pig; we had 13 Men kill'd, and 36 wounded; Sir *George Rooke* has got abundance of

of Reputation by their Engagement, both by his prudent Conduct in ordering the Fleet, and by his Honourable Acquittment to Count *Thoulouse*, who he forc'd to be tow'd out of the *Line*. There's no Men cou'd behave himself with more Gallantry, nor shew a greater earnestness to Engage, than all our Captains say he did ; and, indeed, I never saw a Fleet better ordered, nor Battle better fought in my Life. And now, *Ned*, having ( I suppose ) sufficiently tir'd your patience, and my self with Writing, I take leave to conclude (with my Service to all my Friends) Dear *Ned*,

*Your ever oblig'd and faithful Friend.*

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*From on Board the Assurance, Riding in Gibraltar, August the 25th. 1704.*

*Most Loving Wife,*

**T**His serves to give you an Account, that on the the 13th of this Month we met with the *French* Fleet, and was Engag'd with them the whole day till Night parted us, as you'll understand by the publick News, to which I shall refer you. I have but short Notice of this Express going away, so cannot relate you the Particulars, having scarce time to tell you, that tho' the Fight was long and hot, yet thro' Mercy am very well in Health, and receiv'd no hurt at all, more than that a shot went thro' my Breeches, and broke a Knife that was in my Pocket: I could wish that all Men else came off no worse, but 'twas the Almighty's pleasure some should be sacrificed; for we had 8 Men kill'd out-right, and 16 wounded, whereof 6 have lost their Limbs, but considering the sharpness of our dispute, our damage and loss was not great; for the Enemy fought with a great deal of

of



of Courage and Resolution, even from Ten in the Morning till dark Night: And the next Day in the Morning we discover'd them to Windward of us, but they would not come down, and we could not get to them, so, for 2 days time, we lay in sight one of the other, till by the Advantages of thick Weather they got away from us, which hindred our second Controverse, which, to be sure, would otherwise have prov'd very desperate on both sides, but we had the Honour of making them run away: I am inform'd that *John Atken*, on Board the *Warspright*, is wounded, but I have not had time to make him a visit. This is all that at present I shall trouble you with, more than to let you know that the Wind is just now come fair, and I believe we shall, in few Hours, weigh Anchor and Sail for *Lisbon*, where we are to go in Company with 6 Sail more, and take the Merchant Ships and Convoy for the *Downs*; so, that if it please God to bless us, we may reasonably hope to be in *England* within two Months from the date hereof; so, in the mean time, I leave you to the Protection of Almighty God, and conclude, as really I am, your Loving Husband, &c.

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*From on Board the Royal Catherine, Gibraltar,  
the 21<sup>st</sup>. August.*

**S**INCE I writ to you last from this Place, we have had a very sharp and bloody Engagement, in which tho' we had above Forty Men kill'd, and double the number wounded, it has pleas'd God to preserve me safe, and I am now very well, and hope to see you quickly, we being coming home. I know my Uncle *Eckerton* loves News, you may tell him, we have got the better of the *French Fleet*, and made them sheer away; our Ship

B fought

fought the *French* Admiral all day long, who was assisted by 12 Gallies, but we made him Towe off at last. Our Admiral and Captain encourag'd us all the time, and we fought bravely, tho' it lay hard upon us, by reason some Ships were forc'd to leave the Line for want of Shot, and the *French* Admiral had two great Seconds. However the *St. George* and we did our parts, and made them bear away ; 3 or 4 of the Enemies Ships were on fire, and some of them were funk. The next day we wou'd have Fought them again, but they wou'd not, and we follow'd them 2 or 3 days, and then went to *Gibraltar*, from whence we shall sail quickly being coming Home, the *French* Fleet being gone to *Thoulon*. My Service to all.

*I rest your Loving Husband.*

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*From on Board the Monk, Gibraltar, Aug. the 22d*

*Honour'd Sir,*

**H**AVING this Opportunity, I thought it my Duty to write to you. I am, thro' the Mercies of God, very well. We have had a very sharp Engagement with the *French* Fleet ; I was in the thickest of it all, but have receiv'd no hurt. Our Ship was Boarded three times by a *French* Man, and every time we clear'd the Deck of 'em, and made 'em sheer off at last. The Fight lasted from Morning till Night, during which time the two Admirals hotly Engag'd each other, till about Seven at Night, and then the *French* Admiral tow'd off ; and it being too late to follow far, we lay by to Refit our Ship as well as we cou'd. In the Morning the *French* Fleet were not much above a League from us, with a fresh Gale



Gale Westerly, with which it was expected they would have borne down upon us, and we readily prepar'd to receive them, but instead of that they Tow'd away from us. We endeavour'd all we could to Engage them again, but without effect, tho' we follow'd 'em two days together. At length having lost sight of 'em we steer'd for *Gibraltar*, where the Town receiv'd us with the Discharge of their Cannon, and we answer'd 'em with ours, for they had heard we were half destroy'd, and were very joyful when they saw us appear. I believe we shall come home, because we are pretty much damag'd. If we do, I hope to get Leave to come to Town, and see you.

*Your Dutiful Son; &c.*

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*From Gibraltar, August the 21<sup>st</sup>.*

S I R,

**A**fter our Taking this Place, ( which we have already found the Advantage of, it being very strong and Convenient for our Fleet ) we sailed with the whole Fleet up the Streights, in quest of the *French*; and on the 9th Instant we had Notice by one of our Scouts that they were not far off, we then advanc'd in a Line of Battle towards them. On the 12th we got sight of them, and on the 17th, by break of Day, came up with them; and had as sharp an Engagement as e're was fought, which was to the Honour and Advantage of the *English*. The *French* had 8 Flag Ships, and about 8 more with three Decks; whereas we had but 6 three Decks in all, and tho' they were larger Ships, and better Mann'd, yet we gave them so handsom a Reception, that they thought fit to Tow away and leave us. Our *English* Sailors

behav'd themselves with great Bravery, and so did all our Officers, especially the Admirals, and have got great honour in the Engagement, tho' the *French* pretend, as we are inform'd by Deserters, that they sunk four of our Ships, which is false; we lost never a Ship, which they did, and tho' we chased them wou'd Fight no more; and we hear that they were much shatter'd, and had, besides, two Men of War sunk, and two Gallies, and are sail'd back for *Thoulon*.

*I am, Sir, Your assur'd Friend and humble Servant.*

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*From on Board the Shrewsbury, in Gibraltar Road.*

*My Dear,*

**T**HO' I am unwilling to let you know I am wounded, being in hopes I shall recover again; yet I could not forbear writing to you by this Opportunity; I was wounded by a Splinter in my Thigh at the beginning of the Engagement, and carried down to be dress'd; don't be disheartned, for the Chyrurgeons give we great hopes, I shall soon be well again. The fight was the sharpest that ever was known, and lay very hard upon our Ship; but we got the Honour of the Day, and made the *French* tow away from us. Some of our Ships wanted Powder and Ball before the Engagement was ended, or else we had done more: Our Captain says he never saw Seamen behave themselves better than our Men did, and encourag'd them all the time. I believe we shall come home quickly, till when,

*God bless you.*

*From*



*From on Board her Majesty's Ship the Mountague, in Gibraltar Bay, August the 23<sup>d</sup>. 1704*

I Would not put you to the Cost of Writing for the Account of the taking of this Town, till I had something more material for your Money. On Sunday was sevensight, being the 13<sup>th</sup> Instant at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, with the Wind at East, we Engag'd the French Fleet, the number of Ships were exactly equal on both sides, only the French had 18 Three Deck Ship, to our seven, but, notwithstanding this inequality, before five of the Clock in the Afternoon, we put 24 of their Line of Battle to the Run; the other half stood their Ground till dark Night parted us; that Night the Wind came all Westerly, which occasion'd the French Fleet to be to Windward next morning; notwithstanding this Advantage they durst not come down, and the Wind would not allow us to attack them; we kept them in sight for two days, and then they stole off in the Night, and, as we believe, they are gone to Thoulon to repair their Damage. This Battle, tho' very hot, and of long continuance, has not cost us more than the loss of a Thousand Men kill'd, besides the Wounded, and we have good reason to believe the French lost three times our Number. Let this Account serve till our Meeting. which, I hope, will be soon.

*From on Board the Tilbury, Aug. 24. Gibraltar.*

*Loving Friend.*

I Am to acquaint you, besides my own being well, that our Ships has been well paid. You remember the Fight at Beachy-Head, but that was nothing to that which

which we have lately had with the *French* off of *Malaga*. We have some on Board who have been in all the Engagements since *Bantre-Bay*, who say, that none of 'em were so sharp; the Van, where we were in was hottest for the time, but we got a little respite, for in three hours we made some of the *French* Line keep their distance. Sir *Cloudesly Shovel* Commanded us, and then you may judge, by his Example, whether we had not Fighting enough: It lay hard upon our Ship, and the *Swiftsure*, but the *French* got little by us, and we had the Honour of the Day, in making them Tow off first (as Count *Tholouse* did from Sir *George Rooke*,) and that's as much as I can say for't, for what Ships were lost, or Men kill'd, we know not; only this we are sure, we lost not one Ship in the whole Fleet, and are sure at best they cou'd not lose less. If we had not return'd to *Gibraltar* the *Spaniards* wou'd have believ'd we had been all destroy'd, or taken, for that was all the News there. I believe the Battle must be advantageous to us, because we have more Ships, and the *French* had all the Flower of their Nation in this Engagement. You will hear sooner than we, what they say to it. So hoping to see you quickly, I conclude, with my humble Service to all.

Tours, &c.

*From on Board the Tryton, at Portsmouth.*

*Hon. Father,*

WE are returned with the joyful News of our Victory, and have dispatch'd a Packet to the Queen of all the Transactions, the Account of which you will soon have; so that I need not say more than tell



tell you, our Fleet fought bravely like true *Englishmen*, and got the day at last, for which we gave God Thanks; we had 6 Men kill'd, and 26 wounded. Pray let me hear from you, for I don't know how long we shall stay here. My Love and Service to you all,

*Your Dutiful Son, &c.*

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*From on Board her Majesty's Ship the Tilbury. Aug. 28.*

*Ever Loving Wife,*

**T**His with my kind and continual Love, now and all Times, is to acquaint you of my Health, which I bless God for his Mercy to have preserv'd me; for since we have been up the *Streights* we saw 6 sail of *French Men of War*; but cou'd not come up with them; we left off the Chase, and came down the *Streights*, and lay off *Lagos* for a little while, and then went up the *Streights* again, and then saw the *French Fleet*, which we chase for 2 days, but cou'd not come up with them, and then we came and lay before *Barcelona*, and Bombarded it, but cou'd not take it; after which we came down the *Streights* and took *Gibraltar*, and then went up the *Streights* again and met the *French Fleet*, and was in chase of them 2 days, and on the 13th of *August* we came up with them about 10 a-Clock, and fought them till between 6 or 7 at night, and then they run away; but they had shot all our Masts and Rigging, that we lay like a Wreck upon the Sea, but made all the hast we cou'd to knot and splice our Rigging, and Fish our Masts in hopes they wou'd have fought us again, for they were to Windward of us the next Morning, and we thought they wou'd have bore down upon us, but they

they were well paid we perceiv'd by that, for they might have come to us, but we could not go to them; for they had to all the worst of their Sailors, every one a Galley to row them off, or else we had taken some of them, and as it was they were glad to get away, and leave us the Honour of the Day. We did not lose one Ship, neither *English* nor *Dutch* in the Fight; tho' we hear by all Hands the *French* lost 4 and 2 Gallies. I have Writ several Letters, but receiv'd no answer, pray answer this when we come to *Spithead*, which I hope will not be long first, we being on our way Home, till when

*God bless you.*

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*From on Board the Barfleur, August 23.*

**H**ONOUR'd Father and Mother. After my Duty to you both, my Writing at this time is, to let you know we have had a Bloody Engagement with the *French* Fleet in the *Streights*, and several old Men in our Ship, who have been in all the Engagements say, that none was ever so sharp; it continued all day long very furious on both sides, for the *French* fought very well, but run away at last, as they did from us by 2 a-Clock. I was in the Boat the greatest part of the time to Tow our Ship up to the *French* Admiral, who out-sail'd us. We had about 30 Men Kill'd and Wounded. I can say no more of it, than that we had the Honour of the Day, and chas'd them. The 13th of *August* is not to be forgot. Pray tell Mr Manning, his Man *John* is kill'd.

*Your Ever Dutiful Son,*

*From*



*From on Board the Swiftsure, August 22d. 1704.*

Brother,

I Writ to you upon our taking *Gibraltar*, which is a vast strong Place, since which we have had a most bloody Engagement with the *French* Fleet off *Malaga*, which lasted from Morning till Night, but not so long in the Van, where we were, for *Sir Cloudsley*, who Commanded it, broke the *French* Line by two a-Clock, one or two of which were fired by the Bombs; no Ship suffer'd more than we have, being three great Ships on us at once, bigger than our selves, and had suffer'd worse, had not *Sir Cloudsley Shovel* came up to our Assistance; we had two Captains kill'd, and three or four wounded. The next day the *French* had the Weather-Gage, but did all they could to avoid Engaging us again, which makes us believe they had their Bellyful. The two Admirals Fought one another all day, but the Admiral that Commanded the *French* Van, did not Engage *Sir Cloudsley Shovel*. I cou'd not tell what to think on't when we had three Ships upon us, tho' I stood like a Horse, and never was more weary in my Life: I had forgot to let you know the Number of Ships, we were 55 Sail, and they the like number, but much bigger and better Man'd. If we stay at *Lisbon*, pray write to me, but I hear just now we shall come home, for we had not a whole Mast, nor Rope in our Ship after the Engagement. My Service to all my Kindred,

*Tours, &c.*

D

Some

*Some further Remarks upon the Conduct of our Admirals, particularly Sir G. R.*

I'LL assure you, Gentlemen, my Fingers have itch'd a long time to say something of this Nature, and having this Opportunity fallen into my hands, I was proud of embracing it, in Answering some very scurrilous Reflections thrown upon our Admirals, but most particularly on Sir George Rooke. And the foregoing Letters leading me to the first Dispute, I shall begin there, whether the *English* had the Victory, or no? I believe that every Man that has a mind to believe it, will find faith enough to confirm him in that Opinion: All these People could not Lye, or hit so pat in matter of Circumstance: Nor do I think it good manners for any Man to Contradict what Sir Cloudesty Shovell has writ; but a most transcendent piece of Impudence in some, that have given Her Majesty and Sir George Rooke the Lye, in saying, *The French Account is better than ours; theirs is right, and our's wrong.* This is a Gentleman that calls himself the *Master Mercury*, and Mr. Dullman the *Observer* he plods on in the same Road; Banters all our Admirals, the Action, and magnifies the *French Account* of it: The truth of which is, he had been suffer'd too long to cast his scurrilous Reflections on Sir George, and now finding he had done something for the Glory of his Country, and not knowing how to behave himself in the present Exigence, had no way to come off but this: Now, the misfortune was, the Victory was got by Sir George Rooke, and so must



must not be allow'd of; but had it been under the Conduct of any other, the *Observer* wou'd have enlarg'd upon it, and told the great Advantages we had obtain'd, and not above two to one, but he had told you too, that he had prophesied of it long before. However, this I say for him, 'tis the first Fault he has committed in this nature, for he has ever before magnified our own Accounts, and taken pains to refute those of *France*, particularly in his *Observer*, Vol. 3. No. 36. where he quarrels with the *Paris Gazette*, and calls it a *Legend*; but now it is for his purpose, truly he can bear with it: But most of all I wonder, that one who has been so keen all along against the *Jacks*, shou'd now jump on the same side with them.

His reason why it was not a sharp Engagement was, because it lasted so long, and the Victory was doubtful on either side: That's just a Contradiction, and very foolish, for that caus'd it to be so very sharp, as, indeed, all Letters from on Board mention; but particular Sir *Cloudesley Shovell's*, who says, a sharper Engagement has not been known in any time; and sure He's a judge, who has been in so many. *La Hogue*, nor *Beachy*, were not like it, for there one side Run betimes, and the other had nothing to do but Take and Destroy: And if at *La Hogue* the *French* had so many Ships burnt there, Sir *George Rooke* had his share, who Admiral *Ruffel* sent into , and Anchor'd without himself, while Sir *George* did destroy 6 Sail of them. This he will find in the Life of King *William*. At first he wou'd believe no News but what shou'd publish'd by the Government, and when that came, he's for giving a Reason why he will not believe that neither; and finding the common News was more agreeable to his Inclination, he flies back to that, and Quotes a Lye out of the *Flying-Post*;

and now Mr. *Observer* has certainly lost the Name. He has always Boasted on so, of being a *True English-Man*, and a Lover of his Contry ; for certainly 'tis against the Nature of all such, to Extol the Advantages of our Enemies, and lessen those of his own Nation. And to conclude with him, I'll tell you what a judicious Member of Parliament, and High-Churchman, said of Mr. *Tutchin*, being ask'd why they suffer'd the *Observer* to write on, answer'd, *That tho' it was in their Power to Quash him, yet they let him alone, for he had undertaken a Bad Cause, and writ very badly in it, and therefore 'twas for their Interest to let him go on.*

Mr. *Mercury* truly Banters very handsomely on it, and because it shall be a thorough affront upon our Admirals, he misinterprets the Gazette, and says it mentions, that not a Ship in the Fleet but wanted Ammunition before Night ; whereas it only says, that every Ship (speaking of *Gibraltar*) that had been upon that service, wanted Ammunition before Night, which was only Admiral *Dilk's* Squadron, and we find, that tho' they had left the Line for that reason, so many of the *French* Ships had been disabled before they did it, as that the rest of our Fleet were able to dispute it with the *French* so well as to make them run at last ; which Sir *Cloudesly* says had been sooner, had those Ships not wanted shot ; but then he tells us too, that having routed their Van, he did in some measure restore the Line of Battle, and that we got the Day : Now if Mr. *Observer* and *Mercury* will wait upon Sir *Cloudesly* when he comes Home, and tell him that 'tis false, and he has abus'd us with a false Account ; they will just serve him, as they have done Sir *George Rooke*, and the Government.

Mr.



Mr. *Mercury* is proud of quoting the *Paris Gazette*, which says, the next day the Wind was at East, when Sir *Cloudefly*, and all other Letters say it was at West, but this is what the *Observer* calls a *Political Untruth* in the *Observer* before Quoted; and where he besides uses these other expressions, that the *French King* tells his Slaves any thing, who are to know nothing of the truth of Foreign Occurrences; and this at any other time wou'd have been believ'd by both these Gentlemen; but now as the *Mercury* says, their account is true and ours false. Ay, but we have our Honest Brave *English* Sailors Hands for it, which the *French* dare nor suffer. Here every one that pleas'd sent the truth to his Friends; Men did not write to deceive their Wives, Fathers, Brothers, and other Relation, but to tell 'em the Truth, and all agree in Fact, that the *French* bore away, and that we had the Honour of the Day: And as one honest Fellow observes, 'tis much if we had not the advantage too, for, says He, *We lost never a Ship, and the Enemy cou'd not lose less.* Another thing is remarkable in the *French* Account, that in the Rear our Ships fir'd at 'em so long, that their shot wou'd hardly reach them, which argues they were running away. And let any one look into the Account of their Kill'd and Wounded, Published by *Edward Jones* in the *Savoy* on Saturday last, it being the *Paris* Account, and they may soon determine who had the worst, in which we find they had 2 Flag Officers, and 8 or 9 Captains of Ships, 8 Lieutenants, 7 Ensigns, 2 Adjutants, 2 of Count *Iholouse's* Pages, and a Commissary, and the Bailly of *Lorraine's* Gentleman; besides 3 Brigadiers and 15 other Officers of Marines, kill'd, and about 32 wounded, some dangerously; and of Sea Officers among the Wounded were the *French* Vice Admiral, and *Mont. du Casse*, a Flag Offi-

Officer, and above 60 more, some very dangerously :  
 Now let us but compare this with our account, 2  
 Captains, and 4 Lieutenants killed ; 4 Captains and  
 11 Lieutenants wounded, and we may easily guess  
 how it has fallen to the Men on both sides, where  
 it has undoubtedly (by a very good reason, and the  
 same why they have lost such a vast number of Offi-  
 cers more than we) they have lost treble the number  
 of men, which reason is, that we fired at their Hulls,  
 and they at our Rigging. This great advantage is  
 enough to make the Battle welcome to us ; and on  
 the *French* side they speak very modestly of the mat-  
 ter, and don't pretend to say in the least they had any  
 advantage, but reverse the truth for Honour sake, to  
 say they did not bear away, which is notoriously  
 prov'd by all the foregoing Letters, which are the  
 most certain and credible account that can be, and  
 indeed the *French* say we kept them Company all  
 day, (being 2 days after the fight) when the Wind  
 was at West, which keeping Company had been in  
 plain *English* chasing them. Again, they wilfully  
 omit the Wind having been at West the day before,  
 and that they shunn'd us, as all our Accounts men-  
 tion, and agree too well to be false ; and neither  
 then, nor at any other time pretend, they endeavour-  
 ed to Engage us ; all which makes it evident they  
 were heartily Beaten, which as a Lover of my Coun-  
 try I heartily believe. And this I will further say, if  
 some of our brave *English* Sailors will not endeavour to  
 find these Persons that have traduc'd their Admirals  
 and themselves, (which they may easily do by En-  
 quiry) I will say he is very ill Belov'd among them ;  
 and next it ought to be recommended to the Parlia-  
 ment, that 'tis a great discouragement to all Officers  
 and Sailors, to have their Courage and Conduct at  
 Home,



Home, (while they are doing their Country Service Abroad) by such Persons who are now suffer'd to do it.

To Conclude, both their Account and ours makes it plain Sir G. *Rooke* was eager to Engage, and that we fell on the *French*, and not they on us.

Another Observation is, that the *French* says they were assur'd their Gallies sunk one of our Ships in the Van ; if so, they must have lost two ; this tho' apparently false, is a kind of insinuation that they have lost some, and wou'd have these counted to help their loss ; which tho' they d<sup>d</sup> not tell us of, they have more modesty than to say they lost none ; which they wou'd certainly have mentioned in particular had it been so.

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*FINIS.*







